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13 June 1955

Honorable Arthur S. Flemming
Director, Office of Defense Mobilization
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Flemming:

In your letter of 1 June 1955, to the Director Central Intelligence Agency, concerning the steps which might be taken to minimize the vulnerability of our trans-Pacific telecommunications service, you requested comments on an inclosed staff study on the subject.

With regard to recommendation (a), to purchase and activate the existing cable in the Pacific, this Agency questions the validity of the estimated cost thereof and also doubts that the cable would be worth the cost of rehabilitation. (Careful consideration was given to a similar proposal by the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee during the time [REDACTED] 1949-1951. The conclusion was that rehabilitation would not be worth the cost.) Prior to any further action, the availability of a "cable ship" should be determined, together with an estimate of the continued maintenance costs of this cable, which is old and which has been out of operation for years.

With regard to recommendations (b), that the Department of Defense include in its planning forward scatter radio systems beyond Hawaii, and (c), that exploration be undertaken to ascertain the basis under which a modern cable could be provided from San Francisco to Hawaii, are concurred in by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Director of Communications

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